U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/790,206
Response filed August 3, 2007
Reply to OA dated May 4, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, of which claims 1 and 3 have been amended. New claims 5-8 have been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2007. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is entered.

The Examiner has required a new title. Accordingly, the title has been amended to read: "Button Functionality of a Signal Reproducing Apparatus", as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 3 are objected to because of improper punctuation. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to correct the punctuation.

Claims 1 - 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen (U.S. Patent 5,724,069). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

As per Claim 1, the Office Action alleges that Chen teaches one or more manipulation buttons (40), mounted on a bezel (41) surrounding the screen (30); storing means (e.g. memory); function specifying means (60) for, with the recording medium placed therein, specifying function information in conformity with the function-specifying information (75).

It is respectfully submitted that Chen discloses a special purpose microcomputer-based terminal for interactive user interface. The terminal includes an array of manipulation buttons and actuating a manipulation button causes the interface module to generate a standard keystroke signal. Operation of a program has many levels and at each level an I/O module performs the output function of presenting to a user a set of functions. The functions presented are level-specific and depend on the level of operation. Chen does not teach that the terminal has means for a user to place

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a recording medium, or that the recording medium has function-specifying information included in management information recorded on the recording medium, or that the function of a manipulation button is set with use of the function-specifying information included in the recording medium based management information, as presently claimed.

It appears as though the Examiner is considering the memory or the internal storage device of the cited reference to correspond to a DVD or the like, as the claimed "a recording medium" is a broad term that could include the above-mentioned internal memory, internal storage drive and the present DVD.

Accordingly claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the "recording medium". In view of the amendment to Claim1 and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-8, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an

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appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other

fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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